

MINUTES OF STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE, 5TH MAY 2010

Present: Oliver Colgan, Olivier Bray, David Fauchier, Jen Stout

Apologies: Tirion Seymour

It was noted that there were no 4th year reps present

Matters arising: none

Year by Year Feedback

First Year

-General praise for the course, with some good suggestions for maximising interest and enhancing content-delivery. DF suggested that iTunesU would be an effective outlet for lecture content and students/staff should be made aware of this facility.

-As far as WebCT is concerned, more is better with regard to articles, weblinks, etc. It was noted that Soc 1b's readings are more extensive. Particular praise for unit 2 and unit 4, although there was some confusion about the latter unit regarding what had to be covered in the exam as the unit had not run before.

Second Year

-Disappointment expressed that students were not doing sociology for the whole year and a sense that second year was a "step back" from sociology just as students were getting to know it.

-There was substantial praise for the second year SPS courses, particularly Social and Political Theory, but also some complaints about Social and Political Enquiry. One rep stated that it was too technical and was leaving some students behind. Some students in Social and Political Theory would have also welcomed an earlier statement on this course to the effect that they had to focus on single, original texts and come up with "deep readings" of these. Mention was also made of a "token feminist" lecture.

-Some discussion was had around the merits of introducing classical theory in the first year and developing on this in the second year, with reps speaking for and against this view.

-Some discussion was had around the quality of student assessment forms with some reps finding the descriptors a bit abstract.

Third Year

-Designing Social Research was considered by some students to be a "waste of time" as none were carrying out statistical analyses in their dissertations.

-Some students were worried about the issue of "self plagiarism" and would welcome some clarification in the honours handbook.

-Praise for Honours courses, particularly Youth Culture, Media and Society for its multi-media content and engaging lectures.